



RCA Amateur Radio Club

Indianapolis, IN

ARRL Affiliated Club
www.w9rca.org

MARCH 2026

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE TUESDAY, MARCH 10,
6:30 PM AT NORTH SIDE EVENTS, FORMERLY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS,
2100 EAST 71st, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

RCA ARC NEWS

FEBRUARY MEETING SUMMARY – Thanks to all those who attended the February meeting. The treasurer's report approved. We still have funds in the bank account! The purchase of a new camera for use at the repeater site was approved some time ago. Has not been purchased yet. No news on '26 Field Day yet. [Editor's note: The first meeting of the '26 FD committee was held via Zoom on March 2nd]. The upcoming contests, including the 10 meter contest, ARRL DX, and CQ WW were discussed.

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSION

Date: March 14, 2026
Time: Starting at Noon **by appointment only.**
Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility, 4020 Georgetown Rd,
Indianapolis, IN 46254-2407
Contact: **James Kajder (505) 228-3704**
Email: testing@indyradioclub.org
Required: FCC FRN and a completed NCVEC 605 license application form.
Laurel VEC test sessions: <https://www.laurelvec.com/?pg=exams>

HAMFESTS, OPERATING EVENTS, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Salvation Army Open Net, Thurs. 7PM, W9RCA repeater, 146.88 MHz, tone 88.5 Hz

Mar 7-8	ARRL Intl DX Contest, SSB, https://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx
Mar 21-23	BARTG HF RTTY Contest, http://www.bartg.org.uk/
Mar 28-29	CQ WW WPX Contest SSB, https://www.cqwpw.com/rules.htm
Mar 28	Wabash Valley Spring Hamfest, Clay County 4-H Fairgrounds,
Mar 28	Columbus Hamfest, Columbus North High School,
Apr 17	FMT, ARRL Frequency Measuring Test, 0230 UTC, Thurs. evening in North America

WA7BNM expanded contest calendar, <https://www.contestcalendar.com/>
Visit the **ARRL Special Event Stations database** at www.arrl.org/special-event-station to find other on-the-air events and commemorations.

Hamfest or Convention: www.arrl.org/hamfests

Find a license exam in your area: www.arrl.org/exam

ARRL Home: www.arrl.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE 2026 500 FESTIVAL MINI MARATHON AND 5K ON MAY 2ND

It is that time of year to think about what you might be doing on May 2nd. Might I suggest volunteering your radio and time to support the 500 Festival Mini Marathon. Amateur radio operators will enhance safety along the course route at mile markers and pit stops. On location time for **all positions is 0630** with staggered releases once the end passes your location. Volunteers will need the ability to operate up to 6 hours so extra batteries will likely be needed.

Please follow these 2 steps to sign up:

1. Step 1, sign up as a volunteer with the 500 Festival Committee

Step 1 500Festival.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer

Follow the instruction:

Enter your name and email, create profile if needed.

When asked, enter access code enter: ARES

An email will be sent to your email verifying your personal profile.

This sets you up with getting a t-shirt, pin and other perks of volunteering.

2. Step 2, sign up with Marion County ARES for the Mini-Marathon

Yes, you must sign up with the 500 Festival AND MC ARES

Follow the link at www.mcinares.org/publicservice/500mini to sign up.

Requirements:

- You must be at least 16 years old.
- You must hold at least technician class license
- Have a 2m/70cm handheld (or gobox)
- Be able to program your radio **without** a PC (This is in case of unexpected repeater /frequency /assignment changes)
- Be able to walk short distances (two block min)
- Be able to follow instructions and adjust to requests/conditions

We need YOUR support. Please let me know if you can help this May 2nd for the 2026 Mini Marathon. For more information contact: Matthew W9SOX, Marion County ARES, w9sox@qsl.net --- MC AREC

WEATHER SPOTTER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

In person National Weather Service Spotter training talks are back this year! Listed below are the times listed so far for Marion and most of the surrounding counties:

- Marion County Thursday, March 5, 6:00 pm at Salvation Army EDS Building
- Marion County Wednesday, March 25, 6:00 pm IMPD East District Community Room, 201 Shadeland Ave
- Marion County Wednesday, April 8, 3:00 pm Purdue Extension Building, Indiana State Fairgrounds, 1202 E 38th St.

- Hendricks County Saturday, March 7, 10:00 am at Hendricks County Fairgrounds, 1900 E Main St., Danville
- Hancock County Thursday, March 12, 6:00 pm at NineStar Connect, 2243 E. Main St., Greenfield
- Hamilton County Saturday, March 14, 9:00 am REGISTRATION REQUIRED sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4AABAF2CA2F4C25-60675009-2026#>
- Shelby County Thursday, March 26, 6:00 pm REGISTRATION REQUIRED sign up at <https://forms.office.com/r/qM4NhnN14b?origin=IprLink>
- Johnson County Thursday, April 9, 6:00 pm Johnson County Sheriff's Dept., 1061 Hospital Rd, Franklin

For the complete list, including several on-line sessions, go to https://www.weather.gov/ind/spotter_talks – IRC Newsletter

FCC REQUIRES THAT FRN CONTACT INFORMATION BE UPDATED WITHIN TEN DAYS OF A CHANGE

The ARRL reports that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted changes to its rules to require that every holder of an FCC Registration Number (FRN) update their contact information in the CORES system (email and postal addresses) within ten business days of a change.

Because every FCC licensee—including amateur radio operators—must have an FRN to file applications, this requirement applies to all licensed amateurs. FRN contact information is handled separately and apart from contact information related to a license in the License Manager System. Both records must be kept up-to-date, and each requires a separate update.

Until now, no specific deadline existed for updating FRN or license contact information. Instead, the amateur rules at sections 97.21 and 97.23 provide that a license may be suspended or revoked “if FCC correspondence is returned as undeliverable because of an incorrect address/email.” These provisions remain in effect as well as the 10-day deadline applicable to FRN information.

If your FRN information is current and has not changed, no immediate action is required, but you must adhere to the 10-day rule for future changes. It is recommended to periodically check both the CORES and License Manager Systems to ensure contact information is accurate, even if no changes have occurred.

The new deadline (section 1.8002(b)(2) of the Commission’s Rules) became effective on February 5 as part of a proceeding that was limited to further constraining robocalls. Although the proceeding focused on robocall issues, the 10-day update requirement applies broadly to all FRN holders. On February 6 the FCC confirmed in a Public Notice that the new deadline applies to all FRN holders. The amendment replaces language adopted in 2001 that required FRN holders to keep their contact information up-to-date but had not imposed a deadline for doing so.

Numerous requests for clarification from non-robocaller interests led the FCC to issue a Public Notice on February 6 (see also PDF) clarifying that fines imposed on those subject to the robocall rules for not keeping contact information up-to-date do NOT apply to licensees such as radio amateurs, but that the 10-day deadline does apply to all FRN holders.

See the following resources for updating FRN and license information.

FCC Tutorial on updating FRN information:

https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/html/Update_FRN_Information.htm

ARRL information on how to update license information:

<https://www.arrl.org/call-sign-renewals-or-changes>

For assistance, call the FCC FRN Help Desk: (877) 480-3201 (available 8 AM to 6 PM ET). --ARRL Letter

ICOM AMERICA NAMED OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF THE ARRL YEAR OF THE CLUB

The ARRL is pleased to announce that [ICOM America](#) is the Official Sponsor of the ARRL Year of the Club, supporting the initiatives that spotlight and strengthen ARRL Affiliated Clubs throughout 2026.

The ARRL Board of Directors designated 2026 as the ARRL Year of the Club, recognizing the essential role that local amateur radio clubs play in building community, mentoring new operators, and delivering public service at the grassroots level. This nationwide focus celebrates clubs as engines of civic engagement and increases public awareness of the Amateur Radio Service through local connections across the United States.

“Amateur radio clubs are the backbone of the hobby,” said Ray Novak, N9JA, Senior Sales Manager at ICOM America. “ICOM works closely with them to support education, growth, and engagement. Strong clubs create strong communities, and ICOM is proud to support them.”

Supporting Clubs On the Air and Beyond

ARRL has emphasized the broader impact of the initiative. “The Year of the Club places a spotlight on the vibrant community of radio clubs,” said ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA. “By investing in clubs, Icom and ARRL are reinforcing the local foundation of amateur radio—where mentorship begins, technical skills are shared, and public service takes root,” said Minster.

Through its sponsorship, ICOM is supporting content that highlights the work of radio clubs in QST, ARRL newsletters and publications, and through resources and activities designed to help clubs thrive.

As part of ARRL's broader 2026 activities, ARRL has launched the America250 Worked All States (WAS) operating event, a year-long on-air activity encouraging amateur radio operators worldwide to make contact with all 50 US states in honor of America's 250th anniversary. Radio clubs are participating and supporting a special endorsement for operators who contact ARRL Affiliated Clubs in all 50 states during the year. In addition, clubs and hamfests are hosting W1AW/portable activations in all 50 states, creating another endorsement opportunity for participants.

ARRL also announced that the theme of 2026 ARRL Field Day, held June 27–28, will be “Amateur Radio: A National Resource.” Since 1933, Field Day has been the largest on-the-air operating event in North America, showcasing amateur radio's readiness to provide resilient communications in times of need while engaging the public through hands-on demonstrations and community outreach. This year's Field Day will emphasize club participation and the use of club call signs.

For more information about the ARRL Year of the Club, the America250 Worked All States operating event, and 2026 ARRL Field Day, visit www.arrl.org. --ARRL

START PLANNING NOW FOR HAM RADIO OPEN HOUSE IN APRIL

It's the Year of the Club and the second annual ARRL Ham Radio Open House event in April offers a chance to show off your club's hi-tech gear and skills to your community!

ARRL is encouraging radio clubs and schools to help promote amateur radio science and technology by opening their stations to the public with an open house during the month of April. In addition, groups are encouraged to set up in public places or conduct outdoor activities, such as a Parks on the Air (POTA) activation or satellite contact. The event is built

around World Amateur Radio Day on Saturday, April 18, but your open house may be scheduled at any point in the month.

Ham Radio Open House is intended to highlight the Amateur Radio Service for its development and practice of the latest radio communications and technology, and as a hands-on pathway into science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields for the next generation. This is a chance to not only shape the conversation about modern ham radio but also to show how it serves as a steppingstone and test bed for many young people pursuing STEM education and future high-tech careers.

As ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA, writes in his March QST editorial, “the notion of hams sitting in Grandpa’s basement listening to tube radios is quickly dispelled when visitors see a modern transceiver and computer being used to work the world!”

Clubs are encouraged to showcase the latest digital modes, such as FT8 using WSJT-X, or others. This could be a great opportunity to explore new areas of amateur radio and demonstrate how the service is at the cutting edge of electrical engineering. Imagine your open house visitors seeing a Software-Defined Radio (SDR) waterfall display and then what the signal they see on the screen sounds like and seeing the message it contains.

World Amateur Radio Day, held on April 18 each year, is celebrated worldwide by radio amateurs and their national associations, which are organized as member-societies of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU).

It was on this day in 1925 that the IARU was formed in Paris. American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Co-Founder Hiram Percy Maxim was its first president. The first Ham Radio Open House event last year was tied to IARU’s centennial celebrations. This year’s activity is part of ARRL’s “Year of the Club” theme.

Look for resources to help organize and promote the event soon, including an interactive Ham Radio Open House Locator. Find details at www.arrl.org/world-amateur-radio-day.
--ARRL Letter

HONORING THE TITANIC

Amateur radio operators worldwide will have an opportunity to honor the passengers and radio crew of the RMS Titanic that sank in the early hours of April 15, 1912.

A Spanish special event station, EG1912T, will be on the air from 0000 UTC on April 10, the date on which the Titanic set sail from Southampton, England, until 2359 on April 15, the date on which it sank after hitting an iceberg. The call sign is unique for this event. EG identifies Spain, 1912 signifies the year the ship sank, and T stands for Titanic.

“Radio station managers and telegraph operators Jack Phillips, Harold Bride, and Harold Cottam, who played a leading role in the telegraphic communications during the rescue, will also be honored,” said Carlos Reboreda, EA1PJ, president of the Vigo-Val Miñor Amateur Radio Union, which is sponsoring the 2026 special event operation.

All amateur radio operators are invited to participate. Bands used will be HF, VHF, UHF, and SHF (amateur radio satellite). All modes will be available with special emphasis on telegraphy. All stations that contact EG1912T using CW will receive a special QSL card. All other stations making contact on any frequency or mode can receive a confirmation via eQSL and LoTW.

DX

BOUVET 3Y0K DXPEDITION QRV

The 3YØK DXpedition team departed Cape Town, South Africa on February 21 aboard the Danish-registered vessel Argus, beginning the 1,500 nautical mile journey to Bouvet Island. The group of 24 operators, which includes 22-year-old ARRL staffer Max Freedman, N4ML, arrived, February 27, after slowing down due to bad weather, according to the expedition website.

The Argus completed maintenance work prior to her arrival in Cape Town, ensuring full readiness for the voyage. The expedition helicopter was loaded, inspected, and secured on deck. Both the vessel and the aircraft have successfully passed all required inspections.

"We appreciate the strong commitment demonstrated by the pilots, mechanic, expedition guides, and vessel crew as we move forward together as one team to make this a successful expedition," said 3YØK Pilot James Gallo, KB2FMH.

Gallo added that the captain and crew are performing excellently, and the team is enjoying good meals prepared by the ship's chef. A band plan has been posted on the expedition website.

LINK #1, TO FACEBOOK WHICH SHOULD HAVE RECENT AND RELIABLE OPERATING FREQUENCIES:

[BOUVETØYA 3Y0K 2026 AND PETER I ISLAND 2027](#)

LINK #2, KB2FMH (AKA JAMES HAM) PERSONAL FB PAGE:.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1787070508410564/user/10001271974027>

IF YOU PLAN TO TRY TO WORK 3Y0K, BE SURE AND CHECK THIS LINK FOR BAND PLANS, ETC. [HOME - BOUVET ISLAND DXPEDITION 2026](#)

Thoughts on the 3Y0K DQRM plan they have announced. Some love it and some hate it. Will it work?

This strategy may only be implemented if the DQRM is very bad and slows down our QSO rate significantly.

Normal CW/SSB pileup handling is listening UP 1 kHz on CW and 5 kHz on SSB.

DQRM strategy is to work simplex on all bands within a 20 kHz bandwidth for CW and 30 kHz for SSB.

We will work simplex or "contest mode" within the 20 kHz window in CW. For example, operate SIMPLEX between 14010 and 14030 kHz.

In DQRM mode – we do S&P within a specified window like in any contest.

All stations are calling SIMPLEX. 3YØK tunes across the simplex window and works stations SIMPLEX. – 3Y0K Home Page

SHORTS

IEEE SPECTRUM emphasized the use of ham radio in their [recent article on the hobby \(and sometimes competition\) of pico-balloons](#), specifically for tracking. Pico-balloons weigh up to 30 grams, and can circle the globe multiple times.

LEGACY A CULTURE OF INNOVATION - ARTHUR A COLLINS

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1443043280539913>

THE FCC APPROVED THE ACQUISITION OF WRTV BY WISH/WNDY FOR \$83M - Circle City Broadcasting, owner of Indianapolis CW affiliate [WISH-TV](#) and [WNDY-TV](#), announced a definitive agreement to acquire ABC affiliate WRTV from The E.W. Scripps Company for \$83 million on **October 28, 2025**. This acquisition, expected to close following FCC regulatory approval, will combine the stations under DuJuan McCoy's company, expanding local broadcast capabilities.

HAMCLOCK USERS GET FREE BACKEND SERVER -- Good news for HamClock users and fans: A free community backend server has become available. The website, [hamclock.com](#), make HamClock's continued functions available for free following a successful reconfiguration of the clock to the new server. The functions include, among other things, weather pressure maps, aurora map generation, ham news headlines, realtime PSK Reporter spot data, VOACAP propagation reports and Kp index from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The functions are made possible through the work of Bruce Edrich, W4BAE, who built the project upon the open-hamclock-back-end. Updating can be done via two simple text changes -- either to the hosts file or to the command that starts HamClock. The project is independent of the feeds from the original site, clearskyinstitute.com.

It is one of several developments as forks of the open HamClock back-end created by Brian Wilkins KO4AQF and Austin Parsons KN4LNB. Brian told Newsline that installation instructions and other information can be found on GitHub:

<https://github.com/BrianWilkinsFL/open-hamclock-backend>

The popular shack accessory was left in limbo after the recent death of its creator, Elwood Downey, WBØOEW. Without a new backend service, its varied functions were scheduled to stop working in June. --AMATEUR NEWS DAILY, HAMCLOCK.COM

JOINT BALLOON LAUNCH FOR FLORIDA HAMS, STUDENTS – A solar-powered high-altitude balloon was launched recently by middle schoolers in Florida -- and though it weighed only 15 grams, it carried an ambitious agenda for science - and the students.

Accompanied by their parents and some school staffers, 63 students at the Sky Academy in Englewood, Florida watched on the 18th of February as their little Sky Tracker pico balloon soared away from the earth with the help of hams from the Englewood Amateur Radio Society. Equipped to communicate via APRS, the balloon transmits such data as time, date, altitude, ascent, humidity, grid square - and of course its callsign, N4EAR-1.

The launch was a first for the students, who are in the school's STEM program - and it was the first partnership of its kind for the amateur radio society, said its president, Bill Reed, K7WWR. The students have been able to track its international journey on their smart phones and on a big screen in their classroom.

Bill told Newsline that the students aren't the only ones who have been immersed in this project. He said, "Our club members are very excitedly tracking the balloon. It has generated much excitement as we are wondering how our baby is doing. We are hoping for at least one circumnavigation of the globe." At the time that Bill spoke to Newsline, the balloon was nearly over Africa and well on its way. That's a particular point of pride for the club's officers who supported this first-time collaboration with the school. It opens up the world, even as the little balloon soars high above it. --Newsline, Jack Parker W8ISH.

[Editor's note: If you want to track the balloon, visit [aprs.fi](#) and enter the callsign N4EAR-1. As of March 3, 19:38:47, it was at 42,322 ft, traveling 35 mph heading north east having just crossed over Baja California.]

NOT HAM RADIO, BUT.... For anyone from RCA/Thomson who has visited El Paso / Juarez, and most of us have. Some of us more times than we can remember. You will recognize this stack at the ASARCO Smelter on the west side of the Franklin Mountains.

Here is a 50 minute video on the history, the "last two guys to climb it," and it's demolition a few years ago.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xHW6pfJ-HK4>



THANKS FOR READING

THE RCA ARC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER IS COMPILED AND EDITED BY JIM RINEHART, K9RU AND JIM KEETH, AF9A. ALL MATERIAL CONTAINED HEREIN IS OBTAINED FROM THE SOURCES CREDITED AND EDITED FOR THIS NEWSLETTER.
